

(C) Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 23 - 27 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 28-43.

Claims

1 - 10 (previously cancelled)

11 - 22 (previously withdrawn)

C1 28 (new) A method of cementing a zone of a well, comprising pumping into the well a cementing composition which comprises:

- (i) a hydraulic binder;
- (ii) a particulate material that has a specific gravity of greater than 3; and
- (iii) reinforcing particles which:
  - comprise a flexible material;
  - have a density of less than about 1.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;
  - have a Poisson ratio of more than 0.3; and
  - have an average grain size of less than about 600μm.

29 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, comprising pumping the cementing composition into a perforation zone of the well.

30 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, comprising pumping the cementing composition into a junction of a multilateral well.

31 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the particulate material has a density of 4.95 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

32 (new) A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the particulate material comprises hematite.

- 33 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing particles comprise rubber.
- 34 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing particles have a Poisson ratio of less than 0.45.
- 35 (new) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the reinforcing particles have a Poisson ratio of less than 0.4.
- 36 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing particles have a Young's modulus of less than 5000 MPa.
- 37 (new) A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the reinforcing particles have a Young's modulus of less than 3000 MPa.
- 38 (new) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the reinforcing particles have a Young's modulus of less than 2000 MPa.
- 39 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing particles have an average particle size in the range 80 $\mu$ m to 600 $\mu$ m.
- 40 (new) A method as claimed in claim 39, wherein the reinforcing particles have an average particle size in the range 100 $\mu$ m to 500 $\mu$ m.
- 41 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the cementing composition comprises:
- 20% - 45% by volume of hydraulic binder;
  - 2% - 15% by volume of particulate material that has a specific gravity of greater than 3;
  - 5% - 20% by volume of reinforcing particles; and
  - 40% - 50% by volume of mixing water.

- 42 (new) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing particles have a density of less than 1.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.
- 43 (new) A method of setting a cement plug in a well, comprising pumping into the well a cementing composition which comprises:
- (i) a hydraulic binder;
  - (ii) a particulate material that has a specific gravity of greater than 3; and
  - (iii) reinforcing particles which:
    - comprise a flexible material;
    - have a density of less than about 1.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;
    - have a Poisson ratio of more than 0.3; and
    - have an average grain size of less than about 600μm.
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